

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action that issued December 13, 2004. In light of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and removal of the grounds for rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 10-13, 15-19, and 23-25 are allowed and that Claims 3 and 6 would be allowable if amended to include the limitations of the underlying independent claim.

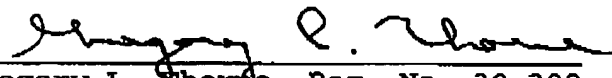
Applicants have canceled Claim 3 without prejudice. The subject matter indicated as allowable in this claim has been incorporated into independent Claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Claim 1 be allowed. Further, Claims 5, 7-9, 21, and 22 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained therein. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Claims 5, 7-9, 21, and 22 also be allowed. Claim 6 is amended herein to be in independent form and accordingly should also be allowable. An indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no additional fees are required for independent Claim 6 since independent Claim 20 was previously cancelled. However, please charge any additional fees which may be necessitated by entrance of this amendment, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

This amendment places the instant application in condition for immediate allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Gregory L. Thorne, Reg. No. 39,398

Senior Patent Counsel

(914) 333-9665

March 14, 2005